

What to talk with a foreigner about?

Hello, my friends!

Everyone who learns English is interested in finding a foreign friend to practice the language. Very often, people have a problem: what to start a conversation with? How to choose a subject? There are no right answers because any answer may be the right one. All depends on a sort of the conversation and your level of English.

Dale Carnegie said that the best way to start to speak with a foreigner was to make a joke. But not all of us can do that. So what to tell him then? Sometimes, our shyness makes it more difficult to start talking with foreigners. So, what to talk about?

Some tips and recommendations.

First of all, you should overcome all the language bars and other problems like that. It bothers you a lot. To get rid of these problems, just remember that wherever a foreigner comes from, he's a common man, just like you. He doesn't care how good or bad your English is. Moreover, native speakers make mistakes from time to time as well. You're not passing a language test. You're just trying to communicate. Remember about it.

If you talk for the first time, just say hello and introduce yourself. Be polite and ask a simple question – «How are you?». It's a pretty banal, but very good start for the conversation. Then, everything depends on a situation. If you're in Russia, you can ask your friend if he likes our country or not, what places he's already managed to visit, how was his flight, etc.

If you're abroad, ask about the weather or something else, that could involve your partner in the conversation. You can ask him how to get to some place, for example, to the British Museum. Or ask him about a national cuisine and what he'd recommend you to taste. If he's talkative, he might ask you something back. So you will keep the conversation up and discuss something else.

People like to speak about themselves. It means that you should ask more about your friend's opinions. This way you'll keep talking and will find some other topics to discuss. Try to respond to your friend's answers and express your opinion. Even if he tells you about something that you're not too interested in, you should say something like «yes, it's pretty interesting», or try to change the subject.

So, you can talk about anything you want with foreign people. All depends on the context of talking and your level of English. Anyway, there is some «hot» topics you should not discuss with a stranger. They are money, politics, illnesses, death, national features, etc.

Take care!